

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 195418 TOSEC 090036

43

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 195418 TOSEC 090036

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PO

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM: PORTUGUESE DEVELOPMENTS
AS OF 0900 HOURS EDT, 18 AUGUST 1975

1. THE WEEKEND ENDED WITHOUT THE COUP ATTEMPT
PREDICTED BY THE NEWSPAPER, EXPRESSO, AND WITHOUT THE
VIOLENT ACTION BY SUPPORTERS OF GENERAL SPINOLA WHICH
SOME CLANDESTINE SOURCES HAD FORESEEN.
2. THE AZORES: PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT SOME 4,000
ANGRY FARMERS SACKED THE OFFICES OF THE COMMUNIST-ALLIED
POPULAR DEMOCRATIC PARTY (MDP) AND BURNED DOWN THE
COMMUNIST HEADQUARTERS IN ANGRA DO HEROISMO, THE
AZORES, EARLY TODAY. ANGRA IS LOCATED ON THE OPPOSITE
END OF TERCEIRA ISLAND ABOUT TEN MILES FROM OUR LAJES
BASE. REUTERS REPORTS THAT SOME 10,000 FARMERS HAD
MARCHED THROUGH ANGRA LAST NIGHT TO DEMAND THAT COMMUNIST
LEADERS BE EXPELLED TO LISBON. THE ANTI-COMMUNISTS WERE
REPORTEDLY SUPPORTED BY THE SMALL, MAOIST MOVEMENT FOR
THE REORGANIZATION OF THE PROLETARIAT (MRPP).
3. PCP IN THE NORTH: THE PCP REAFFIRMED ITS INTENTION
TO DEMONSTRATE TUESDAY NIGHT AT THE SPORTS ARENA IN THE
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PAGE 02 STATE 195418 TOSEC 090036

NORTHERN CITY OF OPORTO, DESPITE THE VIOLENCE WHICH

ERUPTED AT THE PCP RALLY IN ALCOBACA SATURDAY NIGHT.

4. A MEMBER OF THE ANTUNES FACTION TOLD OUR EMBASSY THAT HIS GROUP BELIEVES IT CAN ACCOMODATE CARVALHO'S DEMANDS FOR POPULAR ASSEMBLIES ON THE LOCAL LEVEL SO LONG AS "TRUE" ELECTIONS ARE ASSURED. THIS CONFIRMS OUR ASSESSMENT THAT CARVALHO IS THE KEY ACTOR FOR THE MOMENT IN THE EFFORT TO ISOLATE GONCALVES. SISCO

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